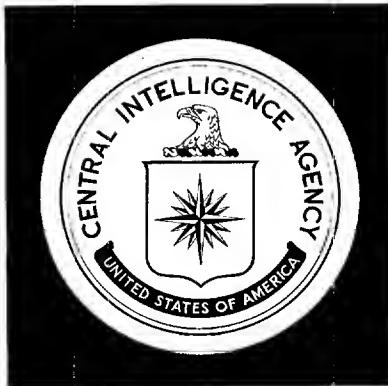
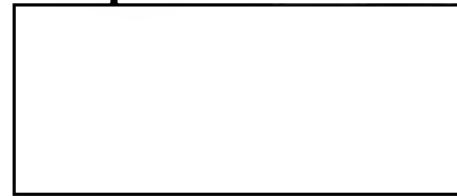


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PANAMA: General Torrijos will soon decide whether to accept US proposals that could permit agreement on a new canal treaty to be reached early in 1972.

The two sides are still apart on some jurisdictional issues. Agreement has not been reached, for example, on duration, compensation, and the amount of land which would be returned to Panama. Both Torrijos and Tack, moreover, have been devotees of a tough negotiating stance, and to date there has been no evidence that either regards the negotiations as having moved from a bargaining phase to a compromise stage. Nevertheless, the concessions thus far offered to Panama meet most of the Panamanian negotiating objectives and could be presented to the Panamanian people as a clear government victory. The key to the decision is whether Torrijos believes that the US has been pushed to its ultimate position and that no further concessions will be forthcoming.

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